

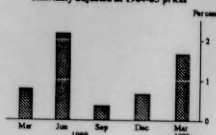
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 21 June 1990

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QUARTERLY CHANGE IN GROSS PRODUCT
Seasonally adjusted at 1984-85 prices



Mining continues to spur on economic growth

Mining was the main industry contributing to the March quarter 1990 increase of 1.7 per cent in gross domestic product (GDP), based on seasonally adjusted constant price 'industry revalued' estimates. This result supports the seasonally adjusted 'expenditure revalued' estimates which showed an increase of 1.8 per cent for March quarter 1990.

The mining industry, aided by increased oil production, raised its output by 6.3 per cent in constant price seasonally adjusted terms. Mining has now grown by 17.0 per cent since March quarter 1989, more than double that of any other industry division. Manufacturing was another major contributor to the relatively strong growth in the March quarter, showing an increase of 2.2 per cent. This followed two consecutive quarters of decline. A further significant contribution came from the transport, storage and communication industry. Recovering from the effects of the pilots' dispute, this industry increased by 4.0 per cent.

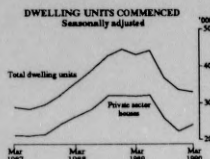
GROSS PRODUCT, MARCH QUARTER 1990
Seasonally adjusted at 1984-85 prices

	Gross product (\$ million)	Percentage change from	
		Previous quarter	Corresponding quarter of previous year
Agriculture, etc	2,430	-0.8	7.2
Mining	4,900	6.3	17.0
Manufacturing	11,574	2.2	3.8
Electricity, gas and water	2,389	0.5	5.5
Construction	4,735	-0.3	2.5
Wholesale and retail	10,151	0.7	1.6
Transport, storage and communication	5,291	4.0	8.2
Finance, property and business services	7,764	0.7	6.6
Public administration and defence	2,348	2.1	0.9
Community services	7,730	2.4	4.5
Recreation, personal and other services	2,573	0.1	4.6
Other (ownership of dwellings, import duties, etc.)	4,175	0.6	3.1
Gross domestic product	66,060	1.7	5.1

The decline in the construction industry (see table) came on top of a 2.7 per cent fall for the previous quarter.

Trend estimates of 'industry revalued' GDP per hour worked increased by 1.2 per cent for the March quarter.

For further information, order the publication *Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked* (5222.0), or contact Alan Tryde on (06) 252 6801.



Housing slump steadies as private housing rises

Total dwelling unit commencements continued to fall despite a rise in private sector house starts, according to preliminary figures for the March quarter 1990.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the total number of dwellings commenced in the March quarter decreased by 630 (2%) from the December quarter 1989 following falls of 17 per cent and 9 per cent for the previous two quarters. The slowdown in the rate of decline was a result of an 8 per cent growth in private sector house commencements in the March quarter 1990 while commencements in 'other residential buildings' continued to decline.

DWELLING UNIT COMMENCEMENTS
March quarter 1990

	Private sector houses		Total dwelling units	
	Number	Percentage change on previous quarter	Number	Percentage change on previous quarter
Original figures	22,470	-5	30,910	-12
Seasonally adjusted	24,150	8	32,990	-2

In original terms, the total number of dwelling units commenced in the March quarter 1990 decreased by 12 per cent from the December quarter 1989. While South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory recorded increases, the remaining States and the Northern Territory recorded decreases, with Queensland showing the largest fall.

For further information, order the publication *Building Activity, Australia* (\$750.0), or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.

Key Census data mapped

Social atlases showing a range of vital data from the 1986 Census are now available for all mainland capital cities. The recent publication of *Canberra ... A Social Atlas* completed the series, which maps demographic and socio-economic information collected from each city.

The easy-to-read maps are supplemented by commentaries on their major characteristics and the trends evident since earlier Censuses. Distribution of population and dwellings; age, family structure, income and ethnicity of the populations; migration and labour force status are among the characteristics plotted.

The series includes:

- ☐ *Census 86 — Sydney ... A Social Atlas*, (2502.1)
- ☐ *Census 86 — Brisbane ... A Social Atlas*, (2503.3)
- ☐ *Census 86 — Perth ... A Social Atlas*, (2501.5-2505.5, 5 parts)
- ☐ *Census 86 — Adelaide ... A Social Atlas*, (2202.4)
- ☐ *Census 86 — A Social Atlas of Darwin*, (2501.7)
- ☐ *Census 86 — Canberra ... A Social Atlas*, (2501.8)

Melbourne Facts and Figures: Comparative Guide to Local Statistics is a similar publication produced jointly by the ABS and the Victorian Ministry for Planning and Environment.

The characteristics mapped are a small proportion of the wealth of data available from the Census — additional maps may be ordered to meet specific needs.

For further information on the above publications, contact the ABS in your capital city (see page 6).

Retail trend still weak despite April increase

Australian retail turnover continues the pattern of weak growth with monthly trend estimates averaging an increase of 0.4 per cent for the three months ended April 1990. The annual rate of trend growth was 6.9 per cent over the twelve months to April 1990, compared with 10.1 per cent growth over the twelve months to April 1989.

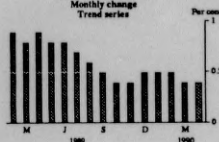
The seasonally adjusted estimate of turnover for April grew 1.6 per cent, but this followed several months of little or no growth.

Looking at the major industry trends, grocers, confectioners and tobacconists are strengthening and currently show moderate growth averaging 0.7 per cent per month over the last three months. Department and general stores are averaging a decline of 0.1 per cent whilst the other two major industries, clothing and fabrics stores and hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs, are both displaying weak growth averaging 0.2 per cent over the same three months.

Of the remaining nine industries for which trend series are calculated, two (footwear stores and floor covering stores) are currently in decline, five are displaying weak growth while the remaining two (butchers and pharmacies) are showing strong growth.

New South Wales and Tasmania are exhibiting relatively strong growth. In contrast, Victoria is currently in decline while the remaining States and Territories are showing weak growth.

RETAIL TURNOVER
Monthly change
Trend series



RETAIL TURNOVER

	Original value in April 1990 \$ million	Percentage change in trend estimates	
		Average monthly increase for 3 months to April 1990	April 1990 over April 1989
Grocers, etc	1,895	0.7	8.1
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	897	0.2	4.6
Department and general stores	732	-0.1	5.2
Clothing and fabrics stores	493	0.2	-2.8
Other retailers	2,601	— not available —	
<i>All retailers</i>	<i>6,618</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>6.9</i>

Schools in sharper focus

A number of new statistical categories introduced in the 1989 Schools Census have added greater clarity and detail to information about Australia's schools. The results of the census were published recently in the 83-page publication *Schools, Australia 1989* which showed that the number of full-time students attending school totalled just over 3 million, a marginal (0.3 per cent) increase over 1988.

For the first time, separate details of Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander students (except for those enrolled at Queensland Government schools) have been included. There were 47,000 such students identified in Australia as a whole with the largest group being in New South Wales, followed by Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Also included in the publication for the first time are details of age participation rates, which measure the number of persons in a particular age group attending school.

These confirm that the ACT, which has the highest apparent retention rate at 85.6 per cent, also has the highest school participation rate for 15 to 19 year olds at 57.7 per cent. Overall, the apparent retention rate increased from 57.6 per cent in 1988 to 60.3 per cent in 1989.

Another new inclusion is data on staff by major function. School staff can now be split into teaching staff (198,500), specialist support staff (4,500), administrative and clerical (32,100) and building operations and maintenance (6,900).

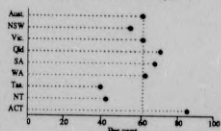
A similar split for non-school staff (Government sector only) shows there were 794 executive staff, 2,356 specialist support staff, 6,177 administrative and clerical staff and 167 building and maintenance staff.

This new series of staff by major function represents a revision of the staffing data and presentation of the 1988 data in the new 1989 format. The Schools Census is the responsibility of the Australian Education Council Schools Statistics Committee of which the ABS is a member.

GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, 1989

	Number of		
	Schools	Full-time students '000	Teaching staff '000
Government schools	7,513	2,194	147
Non-government schools			
Anglican	116	79	6
Catholic	1,720	594	34
Other	687	164	12
Total non-government schools	2,523	837	52
All schools	10,036	3,031	199

APPARENT RETENTION RATES, 1989
Secondary school students to year 12



Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

☒ PO BOX 10
BELCONNEN ACT 2616
☎ (06) 252 6627
FAX (06) 253 1404

ABS State Offices

☎ NSW (02) 268 4611
Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 323 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
Tas. (002) 20 5800
NT (089) 81 3456

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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Statistics Weekly
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All the week's releases: 13 to 19 June

General

Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., June 1990 (1304.0; \$17.50)
Time Series Service, March Qtr 1990 (1311.0; Choice of Priced Packages)
Statistics Weekly, 14 June 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
NIF-10S Model Data Base Manual, March Qtr 1990 (1340.0; Choice of Priced Packages)
Economic Indicators, Qld, June 1990 (1307.3; \$5.00)
South Australia at a Glance, 1990 (1306.4; free)
Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, June 1990 (1303.6; \$8.00)
Summary of Statistics, NT, March Qtr 1990 (1305.7; \$8.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked, March Qtr 1990 (5222.0; \$8.00)
Exports and Imports, Aust.: Trade with Selected Countries and Major Country Groups, March Qtr 1990 (5422.0; \$16.25)
Exports, Aust., March Qtr 1990 (5434.0; \$16.25)

Agriculture

Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, April 1990 (7204.3; \$3.30)
Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Tas., 1988-89 (7501.6; \$8.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Production of Clothing and Footwear, Aust., March 1990 (8358.0; \$8.50)
Retail Trade, Aust., April 1990 (8501.0; \$8.50)
Building Activity, Aust.: Dwelling Unit Commencements, March Qtr 1990, Preliminary (8750.0; \$5.00)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, March 1990 (8741.3; \$5.00)
Interstate Trade, SA, 1987-88 (8502.4; \$10.00)
Forest Products, Tas., March Qtr 1990 (8203.6; \$3.30)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., March 1990 (8741.6; \$3.00)

Transport

Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Aust., May 1990 (9401.0; \$4.00)
Road Traffic Accidents Involving Casualties, Tas., March Qtr 1990 (9405.6; \$5.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 3 July 1990

- 25** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, April 1990 (5609.0; \$8.00)
Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, February 1990 (6302.0; \$8.50)
- 26** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, April 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, April 1990 (6408.0; \$3.75)
- 27** Production Statistics, Australia, Preliminary, May 1990 (8301.0; \$5.00)
- 28** Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, May 1990 (6354.0; \$10.00)
Export Price Index, Australia, April 1990 (6405.0, \$5.00)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, April 1990 (6411.0, \$8.50)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, April 1990 (6412.0, \$6.00)
Building Approvals, Australia, May 1990 (8731.0, \$8.50)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Preliminary, May 1990 (9301.0, \$4.00)
- 29** Balance of Payments, Australia, May 1990 (5301.0; \$12.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
19 June 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Dec. qtr 89)*	0.6	5.0	27.4	24.3	-6.9	-34.5	n.a.	n.a.	4.4
Retail turnover (Apr. 90) (trend estimate)	8.8	4.5	7.9	5.7	6.6	9.6	n.a.	8.8	6.9
New motor vehicle registrations (Apr. 90)*	-2.1	56.7	3.8	29.6	-1.4	n.a.	-4.0	16.7	15.5
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Apr. 90)	-25.4	-38.7	-28.3	-11.5	-55.8	-18.4	7.6	-10.6	-32.5
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr)	20.3	13.7	15.6	23.4	24.1	9.1	15.9	5.6	17.6
Employed persons (May 90)*	1.8	2.3	3.7	2.4	2.0	5.0	-2.1	3.7	2.4
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 90)	9.1	8.7	7.8	6.9	9.1	7.2	6.2	8.3	8.6
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (November 89)	7.9	6.8	3.7	6.9	6.4	4.7	2.6	4.6	6.6
Population (Dec. 89)	0.9	1.3	3.1	1.1	2.8	0.9	-0.1	2.2	1.6
Guest nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Sept. qtr 89)	-8.5	19.0	-24.5	13.8	4.5	-6.6	2.1	-6.7	-7.9

* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories)



				Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
Period							
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 90	89,263	94,113	2.3	9.8
	— 1984-85 prices			62,030	65,441	1.8	4.4
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 90	6,163	6,947	-2.9	-3.0
	— 1984-85 prices			4,631	5,209	-4.3	-8.7
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Three months to June 90	8,170	n.a.	n.a.	-2.7
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Apr. 90	6,618	7,104	1.6	7.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 90	14,013	14,836	0.0	1.4
New motor vehicle registrations		no.	Apr. 90	47,254	53,940	-6.3	15.5
Dwelling unit approvals		"	"	9,993	11,231	-5.9	-27.4
Value of all building approvals		\$m	"	1,853	1,988	0.6	-19.6
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Dec. qtr 89	8,109	7,741	-0.4	17.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	5,248	5,010	-2.3	6.5
Manufacturers' sales		"	Mar. qtr 90	33,133	36,124	2.4	8.3
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to June 90	36,461	n.a.	n.a.	6.3
Labour							
Employed persons		'000	May 90	7,916.1	7,903.1	0.5	2.4
Unemployment rate †		%	"	6.5	6.5	0.3	0.3
Participation rate †		"	"	64.0	63.8	0.4	0.5
Job vacancies		'000	Feb. 90	60.9	56.1	-15.0	-15.9
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.4	1.4	-8.7	-3.5
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 90	204.1	n.a.	1.7	8.6
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		Mar. 90	121.5	n.a.	0.6	5.7
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1968-69 = 100.0		Mar. 90	567.8	n.a.	0.9	6.6
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Mar. qtr 90	3,668	4,633	9.0	2.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	Feb. 90	524.80	n.a.	1.6	6.6
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum		Apr. 90	15.05	n.a.	-0.4	-2.2
10-year Treasury bonds †			"	13.80	n.a.	0.4	0.4
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	Apr. 90	4,181	4,115	6.2	2.6
Imports of merchandise		"	"	3,777	4,047	-8.7	-6.4
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	404	68	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	89	-279	70.5	54.9
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-1,018	-1,417	35.2	15.2
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 90	n.a.	104.0	-4.9	-6.1
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt		\$m	31 Mar. 90	123,570	n.a.	5.3	15.3
Net foreign liabilities		"	"	163,453	n.a.	2.8	17.5
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
\$US	per \$A		Apr. 90	0.7641	n.a.	1.1	-5.0
Trade weighted index	May 1970 =100.0		"	60.6	n.a.	1.8	-0.5
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million		Dec. 89	16.9	n.a.	0.4	1.6
Overseas visitors	'000		Mar. 90	189	179	2.0	9.1

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.
NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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